

## *The President's Daily Brief*

*7 May 1973*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 May 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Lebanon is quieting down and foreign mediators are now trying to get the government and the fedayeen to the negotiating table. (Page 1)

West German and Soviet officials are setting the stage for Brezhnev's visit to Bonn next month. (Page 2)

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Mexican terrorists are now asking for a cash ransom for the return of US Consul General Leonhardy. (Page 4)

The latest Mekong River convoy has arrived in Phnom Penh after losing one ship. (Page 4)

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## LEBANON

It took a third cease-fire agreement, but Lebanon is gradually quieting down, with only isolated incidents reported yesterday outside of Beirut. A steady stream of mediators from other Arab states have been arriving in the capital to help work out a new modus vivendi between the government and the fedayeen.

*The negotiations are likely to take some time. The government has no intention of trying to expel the fedayeen, as King Husayn of Jordan did, and it is reluctant to exert the force that would be necessary to bring the guerrillas under full control. It is unwilling, nevertheless, to allow armed fedayeen the run of its cities. Presumably, government negotiators will try to force the fedayeen to accept tighter restrictions on their activities.*

*Government leaders may have difficulty maintaining a tough negotiating position. They will probably be under pressure from other Arab states to ease their policy toward the Palestinians.*

*The fedayeen appear divided about what to do next. Fatah leader Yasir Arafat apparently wants to avoid a confrontation with the government. He probably fears that under such conditions, his control over the fedayeen movement might be weakened. Arafat also appears to hope that a forthcoming attitude on his part might induce the Lebanese to press for fewer restrictions on the fedayeen.*

*Others in the movement, however, are pressing for a return to the arrangement of 1969, which allowed the fedayeen relative freedom to operate throughout the country. This agreement had been whittled down by the government because of the Israeli retaliatory raids into Lebanon.*

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WEST GERMANY - USSR

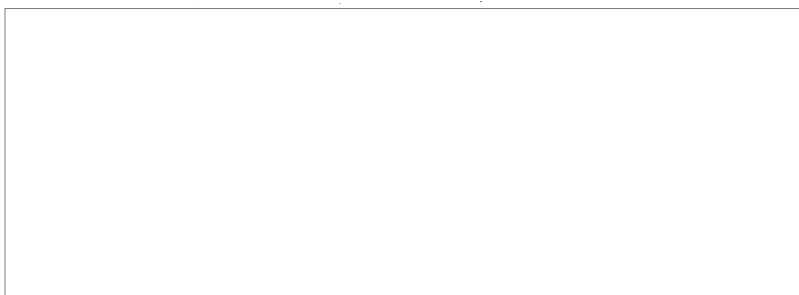
German and Soviet officials are busy setting the stage for Brezhnev's visit to West Germany later this month. Considerable emphasis has been placed on negotiating a number of practical agreements on economic, environmental, and cultural matters. Officials of both sides hope that these agreements can be ready for signature while Brezhnev is in Bonn and thus serve as tangible evidence of German-Soviet cooperation.

*The negotiations have been troubled. The Soviets are making difficulties over West German demands that the agreements apply to West Berlin. Chancellor Brandt, however, is anxious to avoid having to discuss Berlin problems with Brezhnev. He apparently believes that if he must ask Brezhnev to be more flexible on Berlin, he would be put in the position of having to make concessions to Moscow on other issues. Brandt, therefore, has instructed the Foreign Office to have Berlin-related matters out of the way before Brezhnev arrives.*

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PHILIPPINES-MALAYSIA-INDONESIA



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NOTES

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Mexico: After the government met all their original demands, the kidnapers of Consul General Leonhardy have asked for more; this time one million pesos (\$80,000). Mexican officials are collecting the money and will be ready to pay the ransom this morning.

Cambodia: Despite traveling after dark and under air cover, the latest Mekong River convoy was attacked and lost one ship carrying airplane fuel yesterday. Nine other vessels made it to Phnom Penh after taking minor damage. Two crewmen were wounded.

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